

Civic Engagement

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Utah State Office of Education
Life Skills, Academic Service Learning



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- ◆ [Be Ready Utah - Volunteer Service Convention, 5/22-5/24, Park City](#)
- ◆ [U. S. Government & Citizenship Workshop, 6/12-6/15, Richfield](#)
- ◆ [Huntsman Seminar, 6/12-6/16, Hinckley Institute of Politics, U. of U.](#)
- ◆ [Ethics in Action, 7/11-7/13, U. of U.](#)

Community Based Learning

I was recently looking around on the internet for quotes on service. I had to make a presentation and wanted to run a series of slides while people were filing in to get them thinking about the topic. I was quite amazed to find so many profound thoughts, especially from our nation's leaders. Our presidents have had a passion for getting citizens involved in volunteer activity. They recognized the great reservoir of power that resides in the public will, and their desire to lend service to the common good.

There are numerous organizations in our communities who have interest in civic education. Utah has a network of 18 volunteer centers spread throughout the state, providing services to every community. It has been my privilege to associate with the Utah Commission on Volunteers, the Utah Federation of Youth, and Youth Engaged in Service, in writing grants and designing plans for Academic Service Learning. The State Board of Education resolution to include ASL in every curricular area emphasizes the importance of teaching our youth how to be involved in their communities. From my own perspective, it is very easy to assess character education in a school by the extent of involvement in service learning. Students who are developing strong character attributes are always involved in service. They will

learn more about life in an effective program of academic service learning than they will through any concentrated course of study.

How important are our community volunteer organizations in helping students target areas for academic service learning! These groups are continually fielding questions and concerns and directing resources to address specific needs. I was pleased to see them work with schools on projects for National and Global Youth Service Day. The new applications for district and school service learning grants emphasize the need to partner with these organizations. These partnerships cannot help but build interest in our communities in the schools. Our schools are always better when communities are supportive and involved in them.

Recent movements in the country toward Community Based Learning clearly embrace the idea that the pursuit of the common good through community/school partnerships is fundamental to the success of democracy. All schools have a responsibility to be responsive to the citizenry, and to make education meaningful through a commitment to academic service learning.

- Alan Griffin

Learn and Serve Grant Writing Training

The State Office of Education has recently received confirmation that our grant application for Learn and Serve has been approved. The amount awarded for next year totals

\$117,784.00. Districts and schools may start applying for grants in June, with the deadline set for September 1st. It is our hope that this will allow plenty of time to

develop grants for the coming year. Individual grants for districts and schools will range from \$500 - \$15,000.

Learn and Serve grants are given as seed money to begin new service learning projects. They provide an excellent opportunity for schools to become involved in community based learning.

A meeting for district and school representatives wishing to apply will be held on May 19, 2006 at United Way of Salt Lake, 175 S. West Temple, SLC, UT 84101. Those interested in attending should contact Elaine Jones at 801-538-7977 (elaine.jones@schools.utah.gov). This training session will go from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (lunch included) and will disseminate essential information for applicants. All interested parties should plan to attend this vital meeting.

If you will think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself. Character is a by-product, and any man who devotes himself to its cultivation in his own case will become a selfish prig. -Woodrow Wilson

Be Ready Utah

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the 2006 Conference on Service Host Committee, I am delighted to invite you to join us for Utah's premiere conference on volunteerism, May 22-24 in Park City. This year's unique theme, "Be Ready Utah – Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper" focuses on building the capacity of organizations, agencies, neighborhoods and families to serve so that our communities can prosper. Come to the Conference to learn how you can be part of that dream!

This year's theme, "Be Ready Utah – Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper" is also the foundation of a statewide campaign called Be Ready Utah. Since its April 6 launch, Be Ready Utah has been presented to county commissioners and public officials of the Utah Association of Counties, promoted on the radio and published as a resource for preparedness information on the web. Every public school has received a Ready Your School kit and businesses are hearing valuable tips thanks to Ready Your Business. Come to the Conference to learn how you can be part of the Be Ready Utah campaign!

Emergency preparedness can be overwhelming and the consequences of not preparing are things we'd rather not consider. Acclaimed keynote speaker Mark Sloan from Harris County (Texas) Citizen Corps Council will open the Conference on Tuesday morning with insights from managing 60,000 volunteers at the Houston Reliant Center which served 21,000 Katrina evacuees last September.

Sometimes disasters don't make the front page of the newspaper. Personal disasters like the loss of a job, death of a loved one, divorce or drug addiction stretch a community's resources too. Well-known Utah author Richard Paul Evans will deliver a timely message on Tuesday evening from his newest book, "The Five Lessons a Millionaire Taught Me." These are just two of the outstanding speakers and presenters at this year's Conference. If you are a state or local elected official, a health or public safety professional, volunteer coordinator, school or business leader or a treasured volunteer from the field, we invite you to join us at the Be Ready Utah conference. If you wonder if the Conference is for you or if it will be worth your time and money, it is and it will. We need you because being ready to serve and prosper begins with you! The luau-style reception on Monday evening, the great keynote speakers and workshop presenters, plus five delicious meals and the chance to network with your colleagues in beautiful Park City make this Conference one you won't want to miss. Scholarships are available! Call Sanobi Johnson 801-538-8627.

Sincerely,
Kathy Hyde, Executive Director
Utah Commission on Volunteers

Summer Lecture at U.of U.

Concerned about ethics, character, and responsible behavior? Don't miss a free lecture by Dr. Bernice Lerner, Director of Boston University's Center for the Advancement of Ethics and Character, to be held at the University of Utah (Fort Douglas Post Theater) on Wednesday, August 3, 2006, at 3 p.m.

As the 2006 Distinguished Jones' Lecturer, Dr. Lerner will speak on "[Realizing Attitudinal Values: Viktor Frankl on Virtue and Choice](#)." Dr. Lerner not only teaches courses on character and ethics education at Boston University, but has given numerous presentations at conferences and teachers' academies on subjects such as *The Meaning of Courage* and *Educating Heart and Mind: the Theory and Practice of Character Education*. While the Jones' lecture is free to all, it is part of an [Ethics Institute](#) sponsored by the College of Education and the National Center for Community of Caring. If you are interested in more information about either the free lecture or the summer institute, visit our website at [www. communityofcaring.org](http://www.communityofcaring.org), call us at (801) 587-8990, or e-mail us at contact@communityofcaring.org.

Revitalize your thinking about ethics and character by attending the Jones' Lecture this summer. Admission is free and free parking is available behind the Post Theater for your convenience. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Congratulations to Student Winners in Center for Law Related Education Competition

We the People--The Citizen and the Constitution

On April 28, students from Mountain Crest High School and their teacher, Margaret O Bray, traveled to Washington, D.C., where they represented Utah in the national finals of the We the People--The Citizen and the Constitution, the highly prestigious academic competition on the Constitution. The Mountain Crest students studied for months to prepare for their role as experts testifying on constitutional issues in simulated congressional hearings. To represent Utah at the national finals, the class won first place competing against students from Sky View, Riverton, Alta, East and Orem high schools in the state competition on February 6.

At that competition, Michael Rigby's students from Sky View placed second, with Jeniece Jacobson's students from Riverton taking third.

We the People—Project Citizen

A curricular program for middle grade students and youth groups, We the People--Project Citizen promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps young people learn how to monitor and influence public policy. Brian Beal's class at Matheson Junior High School was selected to represent Utah at the national showcase. Their topic was creating a skate park in their area. At Elk Ridge Middle School, Janene Crane's class was awarded runner-up for their topic on school violence. Special recognition was given to Rebecca West's first grade class for proposing safer sidewalks at their Westvale Elementary School. All class levels may participate in the Utah Showcase, but only a 5th-8th grade class is selected to go to the national showcase.

Mock Trial Competition

In March and April, more than 1,000 junior and senior high school students across Utah tried a criminal case in which a college basketball coach is charged with gambling and bribery or threat to influence contest. The Defendant is the head coach of perennial Final Four championship teams. Students impressed more than 175 judges, attorneys, and community representatives with their presentations in over 100 mock trials. In the high school championship round, Judge Memorial Catholic High School was the winner with Robert Spencer's team at Layton High School placing second. In May, the students from Judge, along with their teachers, Dianna Pugh and Art Holder, and their attorney coaches, Judge William A. Thorne, Jr., Gregg Brelsford, Brent Hall, and Nicole Salazaar-Hall, traveled to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to compete in the national mock trial competition. In the junior high school championship round, Kaysville Junior High School's team won, with Central Davis Junior High placing second. Amie Huggins' team at Kaysville was coached by Christina Micken. At Central Davis Junior High School, the team's teachers were Vicki Young and T. J. Barker, with Steven Garside as their attorney coach.





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http://www.schools.utah.gov/online/webcalendar.pl?Op=ShowIt&CalendarName=Character_and_Civics_Education

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Builder or Wrecker?

Author unknown

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell,
They swung the beams and the sidewalls fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
The kind you'd hire were you to build?"
He laughed and said, "Why, no indeed!
Just common laborers are all I need.

They can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken years to do."

And I thought to myself as I went my way:

"What part in the game of life do I play?
Am I the builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and the square?
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?"

Great Resources

Disaster Preparedness Resources

<http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/servicelearning/NGYSD.htm>

ThisNation.com

<http://www.thisnation.com/>

Good News Sites

Fact Sheet: Positive Youth Development -

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/positiveyouth/factsheet.htm>

Good News Agency <http://www.goodnewsagency.org/english/indexeng.htm>

Good Things http://www.goodthings.com/02_00_2002favorites.asp

Positive Media Resources

http://www.omidyar.net/group/media/ws/positive_media_resources/prt

Do Something <http://www.dosomething.org/>

USOE Websites:

Character Ed – http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/char_ed/default.htm

Civics – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/civics/index.htm>

Service Learning – <http://www.usoe.k12.ut.us/curr/servicelearning/index.htm>